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TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

A Publication Concerned With Natural History and Conservation

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

President
Eleanor Zurbrigg

Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on Club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

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Welcome New Members

Ottawa Area

B. & J. Appleby & family
Joanne Bourcier & family
James Bucknall
Ronald Burnside
Donald Cameron & family
Audrey Cormier
Eloise Collison & family
Christine Earl
Karen Ellis
Bruce & Lisa Semenoff
Sara Gagne
Rhona Goodspeed
Sue Lumsden
S. & C. Heywood Munn & family
James Molnar
James Nelson
Mary O'Brien
Elizabeth O'Driscoll
Sandra Parsons
David Patte
Alan & Carol Perks
Laudavena Scriver
J. & H. St John & family
Jennifer Wilson

Other Areas

Tim Allison, Halifax NS
Mike Bird, Brighton ON
K. & S. Falk & family, Saskatoon SK
Scott Hutt, Brockville ON
Carrie Sadowski, Omemee ON

Dave Smythe
Membership Committee
February, 2002

"Golden Anniversary" Membership List 1930-2002

Dave Smythe
Membership Chair

Joined in			
1935	J.E.V. Goodwill	Victoria	BC
1936	W.H. Minshall	London	ON
1942	R. Yorke Edwards	Victoria	BC
1943	C. Stuart Houston	Saskatoon	SK
1943	Mrs. Sheila Thomson	Ottawa	ON
1944	Miss Mary Stuart	Ottawa	ON
1946	J.M. Gillett	Nepean	ON
1946	V. E. F. Solman	Ottawa	ON
1947	W.J. Cody	Ottawa	ON
1947	W.A. Fuller	Athabasca	AB
1947	W. Earl Godfrey	Ottawa	ON
1948	David Erskine	Willowdale	ON
1948	Mrs. E. Frankton	Ottawa	ON
1949	Henry H. Hildebrand	Corpus Christi	TX
1950	H.G. Lumsden	Aurora	ON
1951	E.L. Bousfield	Ottawa	ON

There were no additions to the list this year.

Mr. W. E. Ricker who joined the Club in 1930, passed away this past summer. His membership of 71 years was extraordinary and very likely the longest in the history of the Club.

The 123rd Annual Business Meeting

Karen McLachlan Hamilton

The 2002 annual business meeting was held at the Canadian Museum of Nature on January 8. The Club's president Eleanor Zurbrigg presided and the Ken Allison recorded the minutes. Approximately 30 people attended.

Before the meeting, copies of the 122nd ABM minutes as well as the Treasurer's Financial Report and the Report of Council were made available. Everyone was encouraged to review the documents before the formal portion of the meeting. There was ample time to both read the papers and to socialize with other Club members.

At 8:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order. The first order of business, the acceptance of the minutes of the 122nd ABM, was carried out with minor corrections.

The Financial Report was reviewed by Frank Pope. He noted that the Club's assets had increased this year. He explained most of this gain was due to reduced Canadian Field-Naturalist publication costs. More specifically, the Club had previously purchased a large enough quantity of paper for CFN use so no paper expense incurred in 2001. It is amazing how much paper costs. A motion to approve Janet Gehr as Auditor for 2002 was granted at this time.

Committee reports were presented and were approved by a single motion.

Council members Fenja Brodo, Tony Halliday, Terry Higgins, and Rita Morbia are leaving Council. Eleanor thanked them for participating in Club business and wished them well. Eleanor also welcomed the newly elected Council members Kathy Conlan, Diane Holmes, Diane Lepage, and Louise Schwartz.

The feature presentation was Dr. Francis Cook, editor of the Canadian Field-Naturalist. He began with a brief history of the journal and some of its editors. The Canadian Field-Naturalist, combined with its predecessors, has been in print for 122 years and includes 115 volumes. There have been 17 official editors, but if you count the "unofficial" ones the total number is 28. Throughout its history, this journal has seen many changes, the greatest change came with the advent of computers. He reminded us of the days when each page was "type set" where each letter was like a typewriter key that was placed manually (and as a mirror image) onto a template. The space between the lines were literally strips of lead. This template then became the

author required shifting all the letters in that line, and possibly that paragraph or page. What people did before the delete/insert button or spell check!

Francis believes that the CFN is a reflection of the Club and is a venue for promoting Canada's national heritage. It is also a medium for reporting information which is relevant to the community. He finds that one of his jobs as editor is to reach the broad mix of readers, from amateurs to professionals.

Does Francis enjoy being editor? He said that each manuscript is like an author's new child which is protected with a vengeance. The interactions between author and reviewer is like meddling in the lives of these children and as editor he becomes the mediator in any dispute. No he does not enjoy the job, but when he does, he knows that it will be time to quit. It is a tough job.

After the talk, the meeting was formally adjourned, refreshments were served and the socializing among members continued.

OFNC Committees for 2002

Frank Pope

The following OFNC committee members were approved by the Council at its meeting on Februrary 13th. Committee members may be added during the year as approved by the Council. The members listed below will operate your Club in 2002. Committee chairs appear in bold letters with their telephone numbers. Should you have any questions, comments, complaints or compliments pertaining to the operations of a committee, or should you desire to serve on a committee, please give the chair a call or speak to a member of the relevant committee.

AWARDS
Irwin Brodo (723-2054)
Christine Hanrahan
Bev McBride
Sheila Thomson

BIRDS
Bev McBride (827-8752)
Ken Allison
Colin Bowen
Laurie Consaul
Marcel Gahbauer
Christine Hanrahan
Terry Higgins
Bernie Ladouceur
Christina Lewis
Daniel Perrier
Bev Peterkin
Gordon Pringle
Daniel St. Hilaire
Bev Scott
Colin Selby
Michael Tate
Eve Ticknor

BIRD RECORDS (subcommittee)
Bruce Di Labio (599-8733)
Colin Bowen
Mark Gawn
Bob Gorman
Paul Jones
Bernie Ladouceur
Gordon Pringle
Daniel St-Hilaire
Michael Tate
Chris Traynor

COMPUTER MANAGEMENT
Bob Roach (820-9587)
Stephen Bridgett
Janet Castle
Sandy Garland
Sandra Gushue
Kala Harris
Gregory Hutton
David Patte
Gordon Pringle
Bev Scott

CONSERVATION
Stanley Rosenbaum (596-4288)
Lynne Bricker
David Hobden
Diane Holmes
Philip Martin
Frank Pope
Bill Royds
Adrianne Sinclair

EDUCATION & PUBLICITY
Pearl Peterkin (747-2985)
John Cameron
Betty Campbell
Kathy Conlan
Douglas Crombie
Terry Huzarski
Brenda McCrea
Ray Pearman
Renate Sander-Regier

EXCURSIONS & LECTURES
Roy John (748-9963)
Robina Bennett
Lee Cairnie
Eileen Evans
Bill Grant
Sirkka Keskinen
Philip Martin
Mary McWhinney
Bob Roach
Marilyn Ward

FINANCE
Louise Schwartz (729-8609)
Ron Bedford
David Burgess
Bill Cody
Tony Halliday
Frank Marth
Frank Pope

FLETCHER WILDLIFE GARDEN
David Hobden (521-4145)
Charlie Clifford
Sandra Garland
Diane Lepage
Maria MacRae
Henry Steger

Taverner Cup
Jeff Harrison

Partner representatives
Eric Moore
Penny Reed

MACOUN FIELD CLUB
Rob Lee (623-8123)
Martha Camfield
Laurie Consaul
Barbara Gaertner
Neala MacDonald
Diane Kitching
Ian MacKay
Joseph Potvin

MEMBERSHIP
Dave Smythe (592-3011)
Elisabeth Kanasy
Verna Smythe

NOMINATING
Fenja Brodo (723-2054)
Colin Gaskell
Dave Moore
Frank Pope

PUBLICATIONS
Ron Bedford (733-8826)
Fenja Brodo
Bill Cody
Francis Cook
Karen Hamilton
Elizabeth Morton
Joyce Reddoch

Dryopteris Xmickelii Peck, Simulated Log Fern, a newly named hybrid fern found in the Ottawa District

William J. Cody

In the first issue of the American Fern Journal for 2001 James H. Peck provided a new name, *Dryopteris Xmickelii*, for the hybrid *D. clintoniana* x *goldiana*. This hybrid was reported in the United States from Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Vermont and from Ontario in Canada. The Ottawa specimen was collected in woods adjacent to the city by William Scott on August 16, 1890 and named *Aspidium goldianum* on an EX HERB. GEOL. SURVEY DEPT., CANADA label. It was originally sent to the Columbia College Herbarium which was incorporated in the New York Botanical Garden Herbarium in 1945. Warren and Florence Wagner later revised it to *Dryopteris clintoniana* x *goldiana*.

James H. Peck writes: "This hybrid is named to honor Dr. John Thomal Mickel (1934 -) for his many endeavors on North American fern taxonomy, floristics, and horticulture, particularly his promotion of gardening with hardy ferns. The hybrid is distinguished readily from its parents by its abortive and irregular sized spores, intermediate frond morphology and shared characters with both parents . . ."

The hybrid may be distinguished from the parents as follows:

***D. Xmickelii*, Simulated Log Fern**

Frond length up to approximately 160 cm; blade length approximately 120 cm; blade width/length approximately 2/5; blade shape very long, broad; pinnae wide, long rectangular, acuminate.

***D. clintoniana*, Clinton's Wood Fern**

Frond length up to 100 cm; blade length up to 50 cm; blade width/length approximately 1/3; blade shape long, relatively narrow; pinnae oblong triangular, broad, tapering.

Herbarium specimen of Dryopteris Xmickelii (Simulated Log Fern).

***D. goldiana*, Goldie's Fern**

Frond length up to 100 cm; blade length up to 60 cm; blade width/length approximately 2/3; blade shape very wide, oblong pentagonal; pinnae long rectangular, acuminate.

In the Ferns and Fern Allies of Canada (W. J. Cody and D. M. Britton, 1989) the hybrid between *D. clintoniana* and *D. goldiana* was reported as occurring only rarely in Ontario. Photographs of a paratype of *D. Xmickelii* collected by Scott, and the holotype collected by James Montgomery are deposited in the Agriculture and Agri-food Herbarium (DAO). No duplicate of Scott's specimen is found in the National Museum of Canada Herbarium (CAN) into which the Herbarium of the Geological Survey Department was largely incorporated.

For further information consult Thorne, F and L. Thorne. 1989. Henry Potter's Field Guide to the Hybrid Ferns of the Northeast. Vermont Insitiute of Natural Science, Woodstock, VT, U.S.A.

April Fool

Linda Jeays

Wind-worried litter & leaves
burst milkweed pods & maple keys
spring's first butterflies.

Hawks Aloft at Derby Hill 2001

Ken Allison

On Sunday, April 29, 2001, 44 eager hawk-watchers participated in the OFNC's annual bus trip to Derby Hill, New York. This is probably the only bus trip from Ottawa that allows you to visit both Texas and Mexico and get back the same day!

We knew we were going to have a good day when we saw a Red Fox before we even got out of Ottawa. The drive down was punctuated by excited shouts, as new species were sighted.

Courtesy of Bob Bracken, the in-transit entertainment was a video on hawk identification. At times the video was interrupted by sightings from the windows, such as a male Northern Harrier appearing just when the species was being shown on the screen.

Once we got into New York state, we started seeing Wild Turkeys in the fields. We saw Turkey Vultures, Ospreys, Red-tailed Hawks and Harriers before we ever got to Derby Hill. Double-crested Cormorants and Caspian Terns were seen from the Thousand Islands Bridge. White-tailed deer were common on both sides of the border. An interesting sight for Ottawans was a freshly-killed Opossum on the road in Mexico (New York). Also of interest were the White-tailed deer, common on both sides of the border, and the Skunk Cabbage, abundant in many low spots along the highway.

The weather was nearly perfect for the trip. We might have preferred a southwest wind rather than one off the cold waters of Lake Ontario, but we didn't dare complain. The day before, the hawk watchers froze all day to see 29 individuals! We saw nearly 200 at the hawk watch plus many others from the bus. While this was nowhere near the 11,000 seen on April 23, there was enough activity to keep everyone interested.

The day started at the watch site closest to the lake, but then moved inland when it became obvious that the birds were being pushed inward by the north wind. The time on the shore was not wasted, however, as there were Red-breasted Mergansers, Buffleheads, Caspian Terns and Bonaparte's Gulls on or over the lake. Even the walk between watch sites was profitable, with four species of warblers and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet seen along the road. All the warblers were singing, which was a bonus. Not all the flying birds seen from the hawk watch sites were raptors. At least one Common Loon, several Great Blue Herons and a flock of seven Double-crested Cormorants were seen while the Savannah Sparrows provided background music.

The prize bird of the day was an immature Golden Eagle. Not only did this bird fly close

enough to be seen well, but it circled within easy viewing range for several minutes. Only the Merlin was a 'zip-by'. The Bald Eagles, while moving more slowly, were well inland and provided only very distant views. The Golden Eagle made up for everything.

The trip home was a lot quieter, but we continued to add to the list. One of the last new species for the day was a Pileated Woodpecker seen from the bus along Hwy 401.

This was a very enjoyable trip - comfortable transportation (a big change from those school buses we travelled in for school field trips), beautiful scenery, interesting people and, of course, great birds.

The following list of hawks includes only the numbers counted at the hawk watch site. Many additional Turkey Vultures, and a number of Ospreys and Red-tailed Hawks were seen from the bus.

List of Hawks counted at Derby Hill

6	Turkey Vulture	18	Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Rough-legged Hawk
11	Osprey Bald	2	Cooper's Hawk	1	Golden Eagle
2	Eagle Northern	124	Broad-winged Hawk	2	American Kestrel
2	Harrier	20	Red-tailed Hawk	1	Merlin

List of other birds seen

Common Loon	Herring Gull	Cliff Swallow
Double-crested Cormorant	Caspian Tern	Barn Swallow
Great Blue Heron	Rock Dove	Black-capped Chickadee
Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch
Wood Duck	Chimney Swift	House Wren
Mallard	Belted Kingfisher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-winged Teal	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin
Ring-necked Duck	Northern Flicker	European Starling
Bufflehead	Pileated Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Red-breasted Merganser	Eastern Phoebe	Yellow Warbler
Wild Turkey	Warbling Vireo	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Kildeer	Blue Jay	Palm Warbler
Common Snipe American Woodcock	American Crow	Black-and-white Warbler
	Common Raven	Eastern Towhee
Bonaparte's Gull	Purple Martin	Chipping Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Tree Swallow	
	N. Rough-winged Swallow	

Savannah Sparrow	Northern Cardinal	Brown-headed Cowbird
Song Sparrow	Red-winged Blackbird	House Finch
Swamp Sparrow	Eastern Meadowlark	American Goldfinch
White-throated Sparrow	Common Grackle	House Sparrow

Other Animals

Mammals
Red Fox
Coyote
Gray Squirrel
Groundhog
Porcupine
White-tailed Deer
Opossum (road-kill)

Butterflies
Cabbage White
Red Admiral
American Painted Lady

The Doug Tarry Bird Study Awards for Young Ornithologists

Long Point Bird Observatory

A week-long workshop in field ornithology is provided free to six selected, lucky applicants, 13-17 years old. Awards cover all direct costs of the workshop (accommodation, meals, travel while at Long Point, and professional instruction), but recipients are responsible for their transportation to and from Long Point. This unique opportunity for like-minded teenagers to markedly enhance their knowledge and skills in the scientific study and aesthetic enjoyment of birds.

The workshop/natural history camp is held at Long Point Bird Observatory located on the north shore of Lake Erie, Ontario. This year it will take place from **Friday 2 August to Friday 9 August 2002**. Prospective participants are invited to request an application form from: Landbird Programs Coordinator, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M, fax (519) 586-3532. The Website is *www.bse-eoc.org*.

Applications are due 1 May 2002

Fletcher Wildlife Garden's 10-year inventory

It's 10 years since our pre-project inventories were carried out. This year we're hoping to conduct a major inventory of all species in the garden. Some species groups can be surveyed in only a day or so, but others require season-long (or year-long) monitoring. If you can help, please contact us (David Hobden at 521-4145 or *hobdend@achilles.net*). Experts are needed, but amateur naturalists will be able to assist.

If you were involved in the 1992 inventory, please also get in touch with us. We would like as much information as possible about how those activities were carried out. You may also help us complete some of our files by supplying some of the missing details.

What's Up at the FWG

The FWG produces a newsletter called *What's Up* three times a year (spring, summer, fall). It is available on our web site at *http://home.achilles.net/~ofnc/fletcher/news.html* or you can subscribe (free of charge) by sending your name and address to:
Fletcher Wildlife Garden, PO Box 35069
Westgate, Ottawa K1Z 1A2.

Results of the 2001 Taverner Cup Birding Event

Jeff Harrison

Fifty seven participants in 14 teams, 8 competitive, and 6 recreational, competed in the 5th Annual Taverner Cup Birding Event. This corporate-sponsored event was held in eastern Ontario and western Quebec on Saturday May 26, 2001. The temperatures were in the low 20s and the skies were overcast with intermittent rain in many areas. A major migration passed through a few days before our event. Birders found some passerines still lingering in the migrant traps. Most forest and field birds were found on their breeding territories. Late migrants such as Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers were scarce. Diving ducks had mostly migrated; limited numbers were found at Presqu'ile and Amherst Island on Lake Ontario and between the Deschênes Rapids (Ottawa) and Quyon on the Ottawa River. The two outstanding birds were a Snowy Plover at Presqu'ile and a second year Sabine's Gull in the rapids at Morrison Island near Pembroke. The combined team total was 219 species.

Winners of the Taverner Cup, from l-r: Bruce Di Labio, Ross Harris, André Charron, and Chris Traynor.

The Bushnell Nighthawks, captained by Bruce Di Labio, with fellow birders Chris Traynor and Ross Harris and André Charron, won the Taverner Cup with a total of 180 species. The winning strategy started in the Kingston area and included visits to Chaffeys Locks, Ottawa, Embrun, Alfred Sewage lagoons, Newburgh, Presqu'ile Provincial Park and ended in Algonquin Provincial Park. Other teams visited many of the same key birding sites in different orders.

The Focus Scientific Merlins, captained by Tony Beck, placed second with 176 species, and Paul Mackenzie's Swarovski Spotties was third with 160. Other competitors in descending order were the Great Gray Owls, the Goatsuckers, the Flying Dodos, Team Tasco, and the Counting Crows.

Winners of the Fothergill Trophy, from l-r: Garry M'Nulty, Alicia M'Nulty, and John Dubois. Absent was John Brisebois.

The Outaouais Buteos, captained by Garry McNulty, and fellow birders Alicia McNulty, John Brisebois and Jean Dubois, won the recreational category, and was awarded the Fothergill Trophy. They counted 143 species. The Motherflickers, captained by Chris Lewis, placed second with 138 species. They won the Judith Wilks Trophy. Tim Brophy's Bird Brains was third. Teams and team members came from as far away as Montreal, Chatham and Toronto. A list of all teams and their totals will be found below.

About 85 people, including participants, sponsors and invited guests, attended the Awards Banquet held in Ottawa on Sunday May 27th. The event was hosted by the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' and the Fletcher Wildlife Garden. Steve Wendt, of the Canadian Wildlife Service, was Master of Ceremonies. Bruce Di Labio and his team were presented with the Taverner Cup by Frank Pope. The Fothergill Trophy was presented to Garry McNulty by Shelagh M'Gonigle, a descendant of Ontario's first resident ornithologist, Charles Fothergill. Joan Molnar of the Jaywalkers and close friend of Judith Wilks, presented the Wilks Trophy to Chris Lewis.

Winners of the Judith Wilkes Memorial Trophy, l-r: Bev. M'Bride, Laurie Consaul, Chris Lewis, and presenter Joan Molnar. Absent was Jean M'Gugan.

There were many birding highlights including: Merlin, Spruce Grouse, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Black-backed Woodpecker, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Mockingbird, Lincoln's Sparrow, Junco, Red and White-winged Crossbills, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak at Algonquin; Great Egret, Night-Heron, Oldsquaw, Snowy Plover, Whimbrel, White-rumped Sandpiper, Great Black-backed Gull, Gnatcatcher and Orchard Oriole at Presqu'ile; Red-throated Loon, Brant, both scaups, Goldeneye, Rough-legged Hawk, Pheasant, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Screech and Short-eared Owls and Pipit in the Kingston-Newburgh area; Goshawk, Wild Turkey, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Golden-winged, Cerulean and Prairie Warblers and Louisiana Waterthrush in the Canoe Lake-Chaffeys Locks area; White-winged Scoter (Lac Dore), Goldeneye and the Sabine's Gull, at Morrison Island on the Upper Ottawa River; Red-throated Loon, both scaups, White-winged Scoter, Merlin, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Short-eared

Owl, Sedge Wren, Golden-winged Warbler and Pine Siskin in the Greater Ottawa-Hull Area; Black-bellied Plover, Curlew Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope at Embrun; Snow Goose, Pintail, Short-eared Owl, Gray Partridge, Sandhill Crane, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary, White-rumped and Pectoral Sandpipers and Red-necked Phalarope in the Alfred area.

Widespread scouting in traditional and new areas, and the sharing of information about uncommon birds, a cornerstone of the Taverner Cup competition, is having a very positive effect on team totals and better route selection. The addition of a team from the Kingston Field-Naturalists has increased awareness of the importance of Amherst Island, better known for its winter owls, as a fine place to look for waterfowl, shorebirds, Short-eared Owls and other field birds.

The final team results for 2001 are as follows:

Competitive:

Team Name	Captain	Residence	Corporate Sponsor	Total Species
Nighthawks	Di Labio	Ottawa-Toronto	Bushnell Sports Optics	180
Merlins	Beck	Ottawa	Focus Scientific	176
Spotties	Mackenzie	Kingston	Kindermann (Swarovski)	160
Great Gray Owls	Harrison	Montreal-Ottawa	Wild Birds Unlimited	152
Goatsuckers	Michener	Pembroke-Hawkesbury	Our Natural World, Ottawa	148
Flying Dodos	Pinilla	Toronto	Simmering & Associates Engineers	132
Leeds Stewardship	Nielsen	Brockville	Gentec (Tasco)	122
Counting Crows	Guillot	Gatineau-Ottawa	Mountain Equip. Co-op	80

Recreational:

Team Name	Captain	Residence	Species Total
Outaouais Buteos	Garry McNulty	Aylmer-Hull	143
The Motherflickers	Chris Lewis	Ottawa	138
Birdbrains	Tim Brophy	Ottawa	125
The Roadrunners	Brett Groves	Chatham	118
Tweachers	Janet Castle	Ottawa	111
Jaywalkers	Joan Molnar	Ottawa	71

The purpose of the Taverner Cup is to raise money for environmental projects and to raise awareness of the great diversity and richness of wildlife habitats in eastern Ontario and western Quebec. This year through sponsor fees, participant fees, and pledges collected by our Competitive and Recreational teams, over $1,500.00 was raised for the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, over $1,000.00 by the Kingston Field-Naturalists for their Conservation Land Purchase program, and $225.00 by the Leeds Stewardship Council for their Charleston Lake Peregrine Restoration Project. In addition, a few of our team members combined their entry in the Taverner Cup to do their Baillie Birdathon. We are looking for a corporate sponsor or sponsors to cover our expenses (currently about $2,500.00 per year for food, T-shirts, telephone, printing etc.) so that all monies raised, including participants' fees, go directly to environmental projects.

The "World Series of Birding", after which the Taverner Cup is modeled, is now raising over $500,000.00 each year for environmental projects in New Jersey. We hope that our event will grow to become an important Canadian fund-raising event in its own right. The Taverner Cup boundary includes the cities of Montreal and Ottawa-Gatineau, and lies just east of Metropolitan Toronto. These cities represent three of the four largest urban centres in Canada. It is anticipated that this very accessible but under-birded part of Ontario/Quebec will eventually be recognized as one of the prime birding areas in all of Canada. Plans are developing to create a birding trail through the area to provide easier public access to the many sites and greater knowledge of the wildlife-related activities that take place throughout the year.

The co-ordinator offers a special thanks to all our corporate sponsors, participating birders and behind-the-scenes OFNC volunteers whose continued support is making the Taverner Cup a successful birding and fund-raising event. Thanks are also extended to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for providing our banquet facilities, Lifer Bird Gear of Golden Lake, Our Natural World, and the Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club for providing prizes, and finally to "Websites Naturally" (Toronto) for maintaining our website (*www.web-net.com/taverner/*). Please support our many loyal sponsors with your patronage and support.

The 6th annual Taverner Cup will take place on Saturday May 25th, 2002.

We hope to create a new category of entry this year called "Explorer", for those entry-level birders who live in the Ottawa-Gatineau area, or come here on the Taverner Cup weekend. Details are available from me.

Hope to see you at the Taverner Cup this year!

Falcon Watch: This will be our 6th Season.

Eve Ticknor

The Falcon Watch is looking for volunteers once again to help monitor the chicklets as they learn to fly!

We expect to start around the middle of June and run for two to three weeks. Volunteers work in small groups and our schedule covers every day. Experience is not necessary.

The rewards are unsurpassed. It is an opportunity to spend some time watching superb flyers, to know that you are helping an endangered species, and to increase public awareness of their plight as you talk with curious passersby.

If you have a few hours to give (we work in shifts), please contact Eve Ticknor at 737-7551 or at *sandbird@magma.ca*.

Robinson Crusoe had his Friday. I need you!

Eve Ticknor

The Falcon Watch will be starting up again soon and I am seeking 1 or 2 volunteers to assist me with the co-ordination of the volunteer scheduling. The position entails contacting all volunteers regarding their availability for shifts, and drawing up weekly schedules for a period of 2 - 3 weeks (approximately mid-June to mid-July). You must be able to be contacted by the volunteers (by pager or phone) during the daytime and evenings, and to find replacements for those unable to do their shift.

Please contact Eve Ticknor at: 737-7551, or via e-mail at: *sandbird@magma.ca*

Fall and Winter Birds: Highlights from September 1, 2001 - January 31, 2002

Chris Lewis

It was the best of times, it was the *best* of times! What an incredible period for good weather and good birds. The fall was virtually just an extension of summer, with warm temperatures and minimal precipitation well into November. And we nearly had a "green Christmas Bird Count"; the 1st serious snowfall did not occur until 15 December, the day before the Ottawa-Hull CBC. Both the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers remained largely open until mid-January and although disappointing for Rideau Canal skating enthusiasts, these conditions proved excellent not only for birds on migration but caused many species to linger long after their normal stay in the area.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FALL

Ottawa's 3rd record of **EARED GREBE**, a juvenile found on 1 September at the Casselman sewage lagoons remained throughout the following week.

A handful of local birders was treated to a rare bird on Thanksgiving Day, when a **NORTHERN GANNET** flew up the Ottawa River on 8 October at the Deschênes rapids (Britannia Yacht Club).

The annual Mid-Fall Bird Count (20 - 21 October) produced some interesting sightings, including the latest date for Ottawa of a **Green Heron** in the Britannia area.

CATTLE EGRETS, rare but almost annual in the 50 km radius, appeared in early November. Possibly two different birds were seen, one on 4 November at a sandpit on Moodie Drive, and another in a barnyard south of Carp on 5 and 6 November.

One of the most spectacular and sought-after birds was an immature **white-morph Gyrfalcon** which was discovered on 3 November, and then taunted us with irregular appearances until mid - January. For about two weeks after its 1st appearance at the sandpit on Moodie Drive, this impressive white falcon was observed harassing the ducks and gulls on the large pond. Interestingly, the birds on the pond did not seem very disturbed by the Gyr, who in turn did not seem to be too serious about capturing them. It was seen feeding on gull carcasses, perhaps birds that were already dead. A **grey-morph Gyrfalcon** was seen on at least three occasions by separate observers in

the vicinity of the Central Experimental Farm during the month of November.

Twenty-two **Sandhill Cranes** were found in the cornfields along Milton Road west of Navan on 2 November and were still present as late as 23 November. The shorebirds which were so plentiful in late summer, especially on the extensive mud-flats at Shirleys Bay, had virtually disappeared by early September. However, a few reports of a **Purple Sandpiper** (a late migrant and always a good bird for Ottawa) began to come in during early November, and on 9 December the latest ever sighting of a Purple Sandpiper in Ottawa was of a bird flying from the rock jetty at the Dick Bell Park marina.

The Innis Point Bird Observatory banded a total of 46 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** during eight nights from 10 - 30 October. A single report of a **Great Grey Owl** near the Pinecrest Cemetery came on 30 September, but the bird was not subsequently re-located. **Snowy Owls** began to appear in late fall, and several remained through the winter.

A surprising number of **Boreal Chickadees** were spotted during migration. On Thanksgiving Day, there was one along the recreational pathway on the Quebec side at Deschênes, and another was found at Vincent Massey Park on 21 October. From 4 - 17 November, a Boreal Chickadee was seen regularly by those who visited the River Road trail (Kanata). A bizarre location for this species was the sand-pit on Moodie Drive where one was observed foraging on an old piece of dredging equipment on 21 November.

A superb 3rd record for the 50 km radius was a **WESTERN KINGBIRD**, first found in the Britannia Conservation Area on 30 October. After crossing the river into Quebec, this beautiful bird spent at least the next nine days in the village of Deschênes. It was seen crossing back into Ontario on one occasion, but returned to la belle province and was last reported from Deschênes on 7 November.

Late fall warblers included a **Black-throated Green Warbler** in the Britannia area on 21 October and both a **Palm Warbler** and a **Tennessee Warbler** in Rockcliffe Park on the same date. These birds were discovered on the Mid-Fall Bird Count. The count participants also found record high numbers of **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, **American Robins**, **American Pipits**, and sparrows (**Savannah, Fox, Song, Swamp, White-throated, White-crowned**, and **Dark-eyed Juncos**). An interesting experience involved a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**, a rarely seen but probably annual fall migrant in Ottawa. One was found at the Bruce Pit on Cedarview Rd. on 13 October, and remained in the exact same location for four days. It seemed quite attached to a very restricted area of cattails in a small corner of the pond, and in spite of its secretive and "mouselike" behaviour (typical of the species) it was not difficult to find during its stay.

Many birders were able to enjoy Ottawa's 4th record of a **DICKCISSEL**. A colourful

adult female was very accommodating at a bird feeder in the suburbs of Nepean (Belair Park area) from 9 - 29 November, associating with a flock of House Sparrows. When the House Sparrows stopped coming, so did the Dickcissel. Did she just end up elsewhere in the city?

HIGHLIGHTS FROM WINTER

Most of the winter period proved to be incredibly mild, with temperatures well above (and snowfall well below) normal, an excellent opportunity for birders to try for a "big winter list". Many birders enjoy this annual pursuit, trying to find as many species as possible between 1 December and the end of February. A very late **Swainson's Thrush** on 9 December was a great start, and **American Robins** were still singing during the first week of December!

The local Christmas Bird Counts all tallied record high numbers, as well as many new species for the various counts. On the Ottawa-Hull count (16 December), a total of 82 species, including 14 record highs were recorded; **Northern Shoveler** was a new species. The previous totals for the Pakenham-Arnprior count (26 December) were blown out of the water with 66 species, 23 record high numbers, and five new species: **Snow Goose, Surf Scoter, Glaucous Gull, Common Yellowthroat**, and **Savannah Sparrow**. Sixty seven species were found on the Dunrobin-Breckenridge count (29 December), including 14 record highs and four new birds for this count: **Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser**, and **Hermit Thrush**.

Late-lingering waterfowl species included an **American Wigeon** on the Ottawa River and a **Lesser Scaup** on the Rideau, both still present in late January. The Rideau River was once again the chosen winter refuge for a female **Harlequin Duck**. This was the 3rd consecutive year that this bird appeared and remained in the exact same location all winter! Several **Barrow's Goldeneye** frequented the traditional Remic Rapids location, with up to four being found on the Ottawa-Hull CBC, and at least one male was still present at the end of the period.

The almost spring-like temperatures in early January stimulated early courtship behaviour among raptors and passerines alike, particularly **Red-tailed Hawks** and **Common Ravens**. And unlike previous winters, when the male of Ottawa's nesting pair of **Peregrine Falcons** normally headed south, both the male and female remained through the winter, frequenting their nest-site on the Crowne Plaza hotel and the R.H. Coats building in Tunney's Pasture.

A few coveys of **Gray Partridge** were seen sporadically: one at Colonnade Rd. and Prince-of-Wales Drive, another in the area of Sandhill and Klondike Rds in Kanata, and a third flock in a field behind Whitehill Ave in Nepean. A fourth group was discovered on 30 January near the Greenboro transit station in the South Keys area. **Ruffed Grouse** seemed scarce, with only a few reports of small numbers near Shirleys Bay. Due to the lack of snow, **Sandhill Cranes** lingered in the fields along Milton Rd.

and 10 were seen in the first week of December.

Although this was not an exciting winter for finding owls, a special visitor appeared in mid-January: A **Northern Hawk-Owl** near Quyon in Quebec was very active and territorial until at least the end of the month. Another Hawk-Owl was seen along Roger Stevens Rd. northeast of Smiths Falls on 30 January. This species was scarce all over southern Ontario compared to the great invasion of 2000 - 2001. At least five **Snowy Owls** over-wintered in agricultural areas both east and west of Ottawa.

Boreal Chickadees persisted; two were found on the Ottawa-Hull CBC, and birders were treated to a brief but exciting flurry of four very active birds along River Rd. west of Kanata on 30 December. Two remained in the River Rd. area all winter, and another was found along the Steel Line in Quebec on 20 January. Another pair was discovered at a feeder in Metcalfe south of Ottawa in late January; one of these birds was seen and heard singing - extraordinary for this time of year!

An unprecedented number of **Carolina Wrens** were seen in both fall and winter, with an amazing total of seven found on the Ottawa-Hull CBC. Several of these wrens continued to visit bird feeders until well into January, in locations such as Kanata, Orleans and Pakenham on the Ontario side, and Aylmer in Quebec.

Woodpeckers were both southern and northern this winter: A male **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was a daily customer at bird feeders on Golden Line Rd. near Carleton Place through the end of the period. **Three-toed** and **Black-backed Woodpeckers** were tougher, with one report of a Three-toed on 8 December from Vincent Massey Park and another on the 29th during the Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC. Occasional sightings of individual female Black-backed's came from the Jack Pine Trail south of Bells Corners, and the River Rd. west of Kanata.

A definite highlight of the winter period was the number of birds which stayed far beyond their normal time in the area. A **Hermit Thrush** remained at the Ottawa Duck Club feeders on the 4th Line of Kanata from 28 December until the end of January, and a **Brown Thrasher** found on 23 December on Hilda Ave. near Shirleys Bay continued to dominate the ground-level feeder (even duking it out with a Red Squirrel on at least one occasion) until the end of January. The **Common Yellowthroat** discovered on 1 November was still skulking and calling from the cattails behind the Rideau Tennis Club on New Year's Eve, but it disappeared in the new year, its fate unknown.

Sparrows continued to surprise and amaze us, beginning with two **Vesper Sparrows** near Carp (last seen on 14 December) and another near the Trail Road Landfill on 29 December. Both a **Savannah Sparrow** and a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** patronized the feeders at a home in the Woodroffe/Meadowlands area from 29 December onward, and a **Fox Sparrow** discovered at the Jack Pine Trail on 2 January was still there on the 6th. Several late **Song Sparrows** were reported, but the strangest location for one of these birds was the plant section inside the Home Depot Store on Baseline Rd. east of

Woodroffe Ave. during late December and the first week of January and perhaps longer. This bird was not always easy to see, but what a convenient place for birders to view a species rarely seen in winter. . . just grab a coffee at the Second Cup or a burger at Harvey's, and wait for the sparrow in the comfort of the "great indoors!" Somewhat more challenging was a **Swamp Sparrow** which was secretive and silent but popped up a few times between 16 December and 3 January in a ditch behind the NRC building off Montreal Rd.

Large flocks of **Bohemian Waxwings** invaded in early winter and smaller numbers were found as the season wore on, but "winter finches" were conspicuous by their absence. Other than **Pine Grosbeaks** and **Evening Grosbeaks**, the only finches that stayed past late fall in any number were **Common Redpolls**. Among the large numbers of Redpolls found in the area throughout the period, the occasional **Hoary Redpoll** was found, including 4 on the Pakenham-Arnprior CBC. **Pine Siskins**, **White-winged Crossbills** and **Purple Finches** were almost non-existent by December. Most of the finch species are erratic, though every year is different!

Finally, a note about **Wild Turkeys**, which have been increasingly reported in Ottawa-Carleton county. The Ministry of Natural Resources has recently been releasing captive-bred turkeys in an attempt to re-establish breeding populations. The species has been seen in eastern Ontario since the 1980's, but because it is not known how frequently the MNR is releasing these birds, it is impossible at this time to determine whether one flock or another has established itself successfully (i.e. for a period of at least 10 consecutive years). Therefore, although these are indeed "wild" birds, they are not yet countable in the 50 km radius. Aside from numerous rural sightings, one youngster "went urban", and took up residence in the Carlingwood area. From mid-October onward, the wayward turkey began visiting feeders and eventually became quite tame. "Tricky" (as the neighbourhood residents named him) spent most of the winter sheltering in car-ports and trees, sometimes sunning himself on the roofs of cars or porch railings, and holding his own against the dangers of dogs and traffic. Where he came from, nobody knows, but if this turkey could survive both Thanksgiving and Christmas in the city, he may well be able to find himself a nice flock somewhere out in the country come spring.

The bird reports in this article were derived from various sources including the OFNC Bird Status Line as well as personal sightings and communications. Many thanks to all who contributed their observations.

To report bird sightings in the Ottawa area, call the Bird Status Line at (819) 827-8752. To hear about recent bird reports, call (613) 860-9000. For more information about birding in the Ottawa area, local bird counts and other events as well as an **excellent new on-line directory to great birding locations** (created by Colin Bowen), visit the OFNC Website at *http://www.achilles.net.ofnc/*

Ragged Robin; a new plant record for the Ottawa-Hull Region

Frank Pope

I am familiar with Ragged Robin, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, from travels in Britain but to my surprise, in July 2001 I found a small stand just east of Rockland. It was located in a meadow near Clarence Creek at the Tucker House estate. This plant does not appear in "Checklist of Vascular Plants of the Ottawa-Hull Region, Canada" compiled by John M. Gillett and David J. White.

Checking into the matter, I found that the only other recorded occurrence in Ontario was a stand of about 50 plants growing in sod at a campsite on Morrison Island in St. Lawrence Seaway Provincial Park (W. J. Cody). Two other specimens have been deposited in the Agriculture and Agr-Food Canada herbarium on the Experimental Farm. One was found at Balsam, east of Markham and the other southeast of Cornwall. Two specimens from the stand described above were deposited in the herbarium.

Ragged Robin is a perennial plant, growing one to two feet high and producing deep pink flowers. The flower petals are deeply lobed, giving the flower a tattered appearance. This plant is found throughout northern Europe but only in isolated locations in Canada.

I am indebted to Bill Cody for information about specimens in the herbarium and the CFN note.

Reference

Cody, W. J. and C. Frankton. Ragged Robin, *Lychnis flos-cuculi* L. (Caryophyllaceae), in Canada, Canadian Field-Naturalists, 85:256.

Alfred Bog

Watch for an important announcement in local press on 22 April 2002.

Interactions between an American Red Squirrel and a Brown Thrasher.

Dave Moore

A Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) has been an unusual winter visitor to the feeders this year. For the most part it frequents the feeding station on the east side of Hilda Road (near Shirleys Bay). George, the gentleman who maintains these private feeders, has put down some old car mats adjacent to a medium sized bush and scrubby trees to the east and an Eastern White Cedar and two White Spruce on the north side. On January 10 there was minimal snow cover (5-7 cm) around the mats and under the bush to the east. There was virtually no snow under the spruce and cedar trees; the ground was covered with leaf litter and grasses. The thrasher made good use of both of these areas to take cover when startled. In summer, the thrasher is a regular resident of the area, and I believe it breeds in the conservation area adjacent to the feeders. According to The AOU Check-list of North American Birds, the Brown Thrasher "Winters . . . casually north to southern Ontario, and the northern United States from Minnesota eastward".

The thrasher usually fed around the mats for a few minutes, pecked forcefully at the seeds, then it moved off under the cedar/spruce cover and flicked the leaves about with its bill, searching for whatever it can find. According to The Birders Handbook, p. 470, Brown Thrashers feed on "insects, inverts, small verts, berries, fruit, nuts" and "uses long, strong bill to dig and sweep aside debris in search of food." Our bird seemed in good health, as it appeared alert and quickly flew up into the trees or bush when disturbed, and, except for the rather tattered tail feathers, seemed in good condition. I have seen this bird at the feeder several times since at least December 31, and it does not seem to leave the area.

I arrived at the feeders just as George was leaving. He mentioned that he had put down some raisins and grapes in addition to the usual feed. There were also some pieces of carrot and either cabbage or lettuce scattered on an old carpet under the feeders. I parked on the road between the feeders where I could have an unobstructed view. To the west of the road are a Niger seed feeder, the carpet and two suet feeders. On the east side there are the aforementioned floor mats, a suet feeder and a small open sided feeder on top of an old stump. I was about 5 m from the mats.

As it was just starting to rain, I noted the time as I wanted to listen to a weather forecast to help determine the rest of my birding day. It was 9:34 a.m. As usual, the thrasher was not immediately seen, and I started noting the other wildlife about the feeder. After a few minutes I had seen American Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*),

Black-capped Chickadees (*Poecile atricapilla*), a White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Blue Jays, *(Cyanocitta cristata*), American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos)*, Mourning Doves *(Zenaida macroura*) and Common Redpolls (*Carduelis flammea)* along with a Varying Hare (*Lepus americanus*) and some Red Squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) at the western feeders, and chickadees and sparrows to the east. A Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) flew over as well. At about 9:45 a.m. the thrasher appeared, hopping down through the bush to the mats. The thrasher seemed to appear out of nowhere, and hopped down through the branches rather than flying directly to the mats. The thrasher fed near the mats for awhile and was joined by the chickadees and sparrows. There seemed to be no interaction between these three species, each feeding next to the other quietly.

As I watched, a Red Squirrel appeared from under the cedar/spruce trees and chased the thrasher up into the bush, following the bird as it hopped quickly about. The chase lasted only a few seconds, and the squirrel then jumped down to the mats, picked up some food and ran off through the cedar/spruce trees to a small clump of brush 15-16 m away. The thrasher returned to the mats for a few seconds and then moved under the trees. The squirrel returned via the trees and once again spent several seconds chasing the thrasher up into the lower cedar branches. As previously, the thrasher only moved far enough among the branches to evade the squirrel, but did not fly off.

Four times this was repeated, one of the chases lasting about ten seconds. I then timed the squirrel as it made its very predictable route from the mats to its hole. It took the squirrel about 24 seconds to run through the trees to its hole, drop the food into the hole, run back to the mats to grab more food. Time spent on the mat taking more food was only 3-4 seconds. The squirrel grabbed just one grape per visit. After the fourth chase, the thrasher moved to the opposite side of the trees where the squirrel was passing. During each transit by the squirrel, the thrasher looked up and crouched as if preparing for flight. The squirrel, however, seemed satisfied that it had made its point: " stay away from my grapes!"

I continued observing the feeders until 10:36 a.m. when another birder drove up. He left at 10:42 a.m. and I resumed my observations until 10:46 a.m. when I got out of the car to inspect the squirrel's hole. The squirrel had cleaned out the grapes and seemed to be working on the raisins, but I could not be sure.

During the last half hour of my visit, I saw a pair of male Hairy Woodpeckers *(Picoides villosus)*, some American Goldfinches, (*Carduelis tristis*), a male Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis)* and a male Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens)* along with two Gray Squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis)* on the west side feeders. A male cardinal flew to the mats, as did 4-5 Mourning Doves. Interestingly, the squirrel ignored the presence of the doves, chickadees, sparrows and cardinal at the mats. The birds were wary of the squirrel, but except for one brief charge at a dove (less than a second and only about a 30 cm chase) the squirrel allowed the other birds to feed,

sometimes as near as a meter. Only the thrasher was the target of the squirrel's ire this day.

At 297 mm, the Brown Thrasher is similar in size to a small Red Squirrel, whose size is given as 270 - 385 mm (with a tail of 92 - 158 mm). At 69 g the thrasher is easily outweighed by the 140 - 252 g squirrel, but overall they are very alike. In addition to size, their colouration is very similar; rufous above and white below. In winter, the red squirrel changes from a duller dark-olive coat to a rufous one. The ground-feeding behavior of the thrasher and the way it hopped from branch to branch is also suggestive of squirrel movements. When I was unaware that a Brown Thrasher had been seen at the feeders, my first sighting was the quick glimpse as it flitted up into the brush. Initially I thought that I had seen a thrasher, but I discounted that view and decided I had seen a red squirrel. It was several minutes later that the bird appeared to our amazement.

It appears likely that the Red Squirrel viewed the Brown Thrasher as another squirrel, and was defending its feeding territory. Once the thrasher moved away from the food, it posed no threat and was ignored by the squirrel. In The Squirrels of Canada the Red Squirrel is described as "a noisy little extrovert with enormous energy. . . This species has a personal territory because it is the best way for him to protect his food supply. Any poacher entering his domain, be it another red squirrel, grey squirrel . . .is greeted with a string of abuse and immediately given chase."

If this thrasher intends to overwinter, it will not only have to put up with the cold but also with a neighbour who regards it as a possible threat to its food source. It could be a long winter for the thrasher.

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A Birders Checklist of Ottawa, OFNC

Prescription for a Healthy Jock
- Water Quality -

Rideau Valley Conservation Association

The headwaters of the Jock River arise in the wetlands near the border of Montague and Beckwith Townships southwest of Ottawa. The river flows north through the Goulbourn and Nepean wards of the new City of Ottawa before joining the Rideau River just below Manotick. The watershed has some major challenges ahead if it is to remain healthy and vibrant in the shadow of suburban Ottawa. The recently released *Jock River Watershed Management Plan* is a roadmap for addressing the most urgent environmental issues in the watershed over the next 20 years.

Water quality is the major concern of the watershed community in all reaches from the headwaters near Franktown to the lower stretches running through Barrhaven. Research documents leading up to the watershed plan indicate that the Jock suffers from mild to moderate water quality impairment throughout its length, notably from high phosphorus and bacteria levels.

The Jock is typical of many other urban-fringe rivers. The changes accompanying population growth and economic development (removal of tree cover, increase in impermeable surfaces, quicker runoff, increased traffic, more intense agriculture for food production) can outpace our ability to protect the natural environment against undue degradation. The trends in water quality we find on the Jock are also found in many other near-urban rivers in Canada.

Phosphorus is entering the river at a rate faster than is being used by the natural environment. Levels are consistently above provincial guidelines resulting in excessive plant growth, stagnant water and low oxygen levels. Sources of this nutrient are usually "non-point" meaning a diffuse source that flows overland in small quantities over time rather than a concentrated "point" source such as a pipe or storm outlet pouring into the river. Many of the usual non-point sources of phosphorus are associated with land management practices. These include: fertilizers spread on fields, faulty or poorly maintained septic systems, milkhouse washwater and stormwater runoff. It is the tributaries such as Leamy Creek and Flowing Creek and the upper Jock River that seem most affected by high phosphorus levels.

Bacteria levels also often exceed the recommended guidelines making the Jock questionable in terms of swimming and other water-contact recreation. Sources of bacteria are widespread and are often a result of land use practices. Like phosphorus, the tributaries and the upper Jock River are particularly prone to high bacteria levels.

The exception is Kings Creek which consistently tests below the provincial guidelines.

Other water quality problems include high ammonia levels which, when combined with the high phosphorus levels and low oxygen levels, results in fish and other aquatic populations being stressed. This situation is particularly true in Leamy Creek. The Jock is a low flow, low volume stream, so the impact of high nutrient and bacteria loading is compounded by the river's relatively small assimilative capacity.

Improvement of the Jock's poor water quality is the primary focus of the watershed plan. In developing the plan, the community talked about the need to improve, protect and maintain surface water quality in the river. The three year work plan for attacking the problem of poor water quality on the Jock identifies almost half a million dollars worth of needed action by lead players such as the Township of Montague, Township of Beckwith, City of Ottawa, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, Friends of the Jock River, the Land Owner Resource Centre and the Ottawa Stewardship Council.

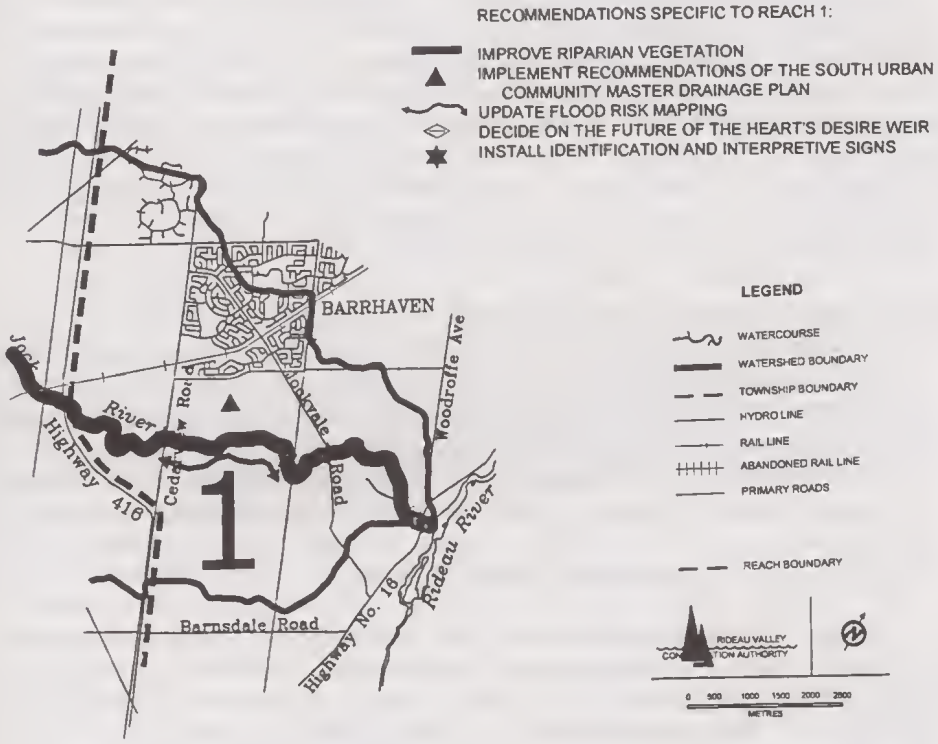
The major cost is a stewardship program which gives incentives to landowners to reduce non-point source pollutant loads. This program provides technical help and cash incentives to rural landowners for keeping cattle away from streams, for installing and maintaining buffer strips along creeks and ditches, for constructing or renovating manure and chemical storage facilities and for repairing and upgrading faulty septic systems. A secondary major expense is an investigative water quality monitoring program to determine the pollution sources so that investment in remedial measures can be targeted to where they will have the most beneficial effects.

A subwatershed plan is to be completed on Flowing Creek, a major tributary of the Jock entering just below Richmond. It is known to be a major carrier of both urban and rural runoff. The City of Ottawa will start the sub-watershed study on Flowing Creek (including the Village of Richmond) by year end. The municipalities will continue performance monitoring and reporting on municipal storm sewer systems and wastewater systems in the watershed. Ottawa is also responsible for implementing the South Nepean Master Drainage Plan which serves in many ways as the sub-watershed plan protecting the urban part of the Jock east of Highway 416. RVCA and the City of Ottawa will continue their baseline water quality monitoring and macro-invertebrate sampling in order to track long term trends.

The watershed plan also calls for some very effective but inexpensive actions that go a long way to enhancing water quality in the river. One of the causes of poor water quality is the loss of riverbank vegetation which has occurred over the past 40 years. A three year program of stream bank re-naturalization to regrow those shorelines and rebuild the natural buffer strips is foreseen. It is hoped that the Friends of the Jock River, a community-based action group, will take up this project and aggressively replant the banks of the Jock wherever possible. Enhancement of this green shoreline not only helps preserve water quality by intercepting pollution running in from the land, but will

provide shading/cooling of the water, and will create wildlife habitat and natural erosion control. A community education program is also proposed through which public service messages about the link between land management and water quality will be delivered to watershed residents.

Tha is a snapshot of water quality in the Jock. Knowing this, and armed with the watershed plan, we should be able to stop further degradation and maintain current water quality in the short term. The *Jock River Watershed Management Plan* positions the RVCA and its partners to improve water quality through coordinated action over the coming years.



The map shows the actions recommended by the *Jock River Watershed Management Plan* in Reach One of the river (between the mouth upstream to the Highway 416 bridge). Maps showing recommendations in the other three reaches will appear in future editions. For more information on the full watershed report, please check out the RVCA website at *www.rideauvalley.on.ca.*

Field Notes from the Jock River.
I: Amphibians, Crayfish, Unionids, and Dobsonflies just above the Rideau.

Frederick W. Schueler

For decades all I knew of the Jock River was its mouth where it crossed under Hwy 16 on the route from Bishops Mills to Ottawa. I first stopped here on 1 August 1975, when some rock-turning produced what at first seemed to be the long-sought Ottawa area *Gyrinophilus* (Spring Salamander), but which proved, on closer examination, to be a large, anomalously grey-coloured *Eurycea bislineata* (Two-Lined Salamander). Return visits in August and September resulted in the collection of more *Eurycea*. The largest of which was 109 mm in total length, and had no dark pigmentation but rather a pale mottled pattern all over the body. We also found *Rana sylvatica* (Wood Frog) and *Bufo americanus* (American Toad), and our three local crayfish, *Orconectes virilis*, *Orconectes propinquus*, and *Cambarus bartonii*.

I was new to eastern Ontario at that time and much of my field experience in Ottawa had been around the Champlain Bridge Islands where these crayfish and salamanders were common, so it did not occur to me that this was (except for one old record from Moose Creek) the first time *Eurycea* had been found off the Shield inland from the St. Lawrence or Ottawa Rivers. At the time no one knew that *Cambarus bartonii*, a crayfish common in New Brunswick and New England brooks, was unusual in Ontario east of the Shield. We were intrigued by the novelty of the unpatterned *Eurycea*, and came back again on 19 June 1980 to see if it was still there. It was. We found *Euyrcea* again on 19 August 1983, although no unpatterned individuals were seen.

By 25 May 1987 the crayfish picture changed dramatically, just as it has in many lakes and streams throughout northern North America. There were only a few *Orconectes virilis* and no *Cambarus bartonii*. *Orconectes propinquus* was abundant, but many of them seemed to be hybrids of *Orconectes rusticus*, which was abundant in its own right (Schueler 1989).

Ever since Crocker and Barr (1968) reported *Orconectes rusticus* from Lake of the Woods and lakes in southern Ontario, this native of the Ohio and U.S. Mississippi drainages has turned up in many places in Ontario and the Great Lakes states. These introductions are doubtlessly due to the release or escape of fish bait brought in from the South. *O. rusticus* lives in all habitats used by native crayfish, and their omnivorous browsing and predation reduces the abundance and diversity of aquatic plants and invertebrates. They eat twice as much as other crayfish because of a higher metabolic rate and diurnal activity. Since they grow larger than the native species, their claws are

larger and therefore they are relatively invulnerable to predation.

On 3 August 1993 all the crayfish found at the site just above the Rideau seemed to be hybrids, *Orconectes propinquus* x *rusticus*. I found a few *Eurycea* under stones at waters edge. I was afraid that *O. rusticus* might have driven the salamander population to extinction, but salamanders were still present.

On 28 August 1995, I again found hybrid *Orconectes*, but the only Unionidae below the bridge were unidentifiable shell fragments - and above the bridge there was only one *Elliptio complanata* (Eastern Elliptio) valve, our commonest species, and an old worn fragment of what may have been a *Lampsilis* shell.

It was at this visit and my increasing familiarity with conditions in the rest of eastern Ontario which made me realize how unique this seepage bank was. The redaction of my data sheet would have been commonplace in New Brunswick or New England, but it was exceptional for Ottawa-Carleton: "Upland substrate was boulders and gravel in clayey soil. The terrestrial vegetation was parkland, deciduous, *Tilia*, *Quercus*, and *Populus*. Human impact on the site included angling, and an open park-like cemetery above the slope. Water at the site was permanent natural pool and riffle river. The bottom was boulders, cobbles, gravel. Water quality was clear. Spaces under rocks were clear. Water movement was medium fast. Dominant aquatic plants were algal coating on rocks. Capture was by hand. Cover checked included flat and round rocks." On the banks were many ferns: *Onoclea sensibilis* (Sensitive Fern), *Matteuccia struthiopteris* (Ostrich Fern), and *Cystopteris bulbifera* (Bulblet Fern), with *Chelone glabra* (Turtlehead) along the bank, and *Marchantia polymorpha* (Common Liverwort) covering one boulder at the waters edge. *Rana catesbeiana* (Bull Frog), and *Rana clamitans* (Green Frog) joined *Eurycea* in the amphibian list, and one *Eurycea* seemed to be the large non-pigmented morph.

It had taken twenty years for me to realize that the presence of the salamanders here indicated that this was an important and distinctive site. I began to bring visiting specialists to see it. On 14 July 1997 Bill Perry, who was working on *Orconectes propinquus* x *rusticus* hybridization at Notre Dame University, sampled the hybridizing crayfish and found a few *Orconectes virilis*. We also found a few old shells of *Elliptio complanata*, and one of *Lampsilis radiata* (Eastern Lamp-Mussel). *Eurycea*, Bull, Green, and Wood Frogs were present, and we added *Corydalus cornutus* (Dobsonfly) to the list of large, regionally infrequent stream-dwelling species.

Don McAlpine came in 1998 to gather reference *Orconectes rusticus* for the New Brunswick Museum. This time we added *Rana pipiens* (Leopard Frog) to the amphibian list.

I began to worry about the lack of *Cambarus bartonii*. How do you search for a shy, rare, crayfish where it may be extirpated? Since our *Cambarus* are more nocturnal than our *Orconectes*, on the evening of 20 August 1999 an EOBM (Eastern Ontario

Biodiversity Museum) field party visited the site to look for active crayfish, and see if these might include *Cambarus bartonii*. Few crayfish were active, and those found were *Orconectes rusticus* -like. Perhaps the moon was too bright for full activity. Stew Hamill, with Katie and Devon, found the first *Eurycea*, under a flat triangular stone at the water's edge, while Greg Hutton found slender larval salamanders beside stones in the gravel.

On 4 March 2000, while stopping to look for drift along the Rideau, we found the first *Dreissena polymorpha* (Zebra Mussel) on stones exposed by the low water levels.

Then the call went out for a Bio-blitz (a 24-hour all-taxon biotic inventory) of the shore of the Rideau along the new 'Chapman Mills' residential construction. On 24 June 2000 we parked our trailer at the municipal lot on the north side of the mouth to serve as the office. We were to survey the west shore of the Rideau River downstream of the Jock, between Carleton Lodge and Winding Way. Ever since 1974, when a turtle trap placed at Hwy 16 and Merivale Road caught nothing, this stretch of the Rideau has been a disappointment to me. In a decade of driving past every day, I do not think I saw more than one turtle on the road. Parks Canada's habit of drawing down the water more than a metre in the winter precludes vibrant near-shore macro-invertebrate life. Boat wakes in this narrow canal scour the shore, and since the mouth of the Jock is near this area, it means that *Orconectes rusticus* has been able to spread up into the mouth and onto whatever bottom life remains. Also the shores are grassy old fields with no old natural habitat remaining to repopulate the now meadow-like fields.

In the morning of the Bio-blitz Isabelle Picard and I worked the shore. We found no unionid mussels, few aquatic snails, a meager list of land snails, and *Orconectes rusticus* wherever crayfish could live. Herpetology was represented by a single Bullfrog. The two modest high points were a handful of fairly rich mollusc drift near a little ditch outlet (which of course may have been washed in from elsewhere), and *Oxyloma* snails on marsh grass.

After this disappointing morning we took refuge up along the Jock, above the Highway 16 bridge, where the Two-lined Salamanders live. While Isabelle fed mosquitos and picked up a few land snails from a cemetery-edge stone pile, I worked the steep south shore of the Jock almost up to the weir. It finally occurred to me see how far upstream the *Eurycea* population extended. The water was a foot higher than usual, but I found *Eurycea* all the way along, and three hellgrammites (*Corydalus cornutus* larvae), under water-edge stones. I now know that *Eurycea*'s range also includes a 400 m of fascinating shore scattered plants of *Caltha palustris* (Marsh Marigold) at the water's edge. What I saw was a steep seeping rocky slope below a mature forest where *Taxus canadensis* (Yew), Ostrich and Sensitive Ferns were present.

It is worrisome that there were several new surveyor's iron posts at the water's edge and lines of flagging tape through the woods. I think someone proposes to destroy the area, and with it the Wood Frogs, *Eurycea*, and dobsonflies. This is one of the most

wonderful places in Ottawa-Carleton, and I suppose this means it must be removed to make way for more ugliness, just as the fields north of here along the Rideau are being uglified by new construction.

So here are the questions resulting from 27 years of intermittent monitoring: 1) How far upstream does the *Eurycea* population extend? 2) Is the large unpigmented form still present in the population, and at what frequency? 3) Does *Cambarus bartonii* persist here or elsewhere in the Jock River? 4) Are Wood Frogs still here, and if so where does the population breed? 4) How far upstream is *Corydalus* found? 5) Why are unionid mussels so rare at the mouth of the Jock and of so many other Rideau River tributaries? and 6) Is this vibrant community threatened by destruction?

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Judith Price and Michèle Steigerwald for data about some CMN specimens. Besides those mentioned in the text, Aleta Karstad, Jennifer Schueler, Francis Cook and Mike Rankin participated in some of these forays. These records were contributed to the RVCA for the Jock River Watershed Plan, but may not have been included.

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Windows and Bird Collisions: A Preventable Tragedy

Part I.
A Personal Reflection on the Issue

by Anthony Denton

About a year ago I became a volunteer at the Canadian Museum of Nature by agreeing to water the wildflower garden. This activity, to which I happily gave maybe 20 hours of time, turned into something much greater and gave me a new field of interest.

At the end of the summer the volunteer coordinator asked me if I would like to do some other task. When I expressed willingness, but doubt as to my ability to handle anything more than an automatic sprinkler, she offered a choice of three, all relating to the museum's collections building in Aylmer. Two of these had no appeal, and the third interested me but seemed impossible because of my squeamishness - I cannot watch medical processes either live or recorded. I agreed to give it a try because the subject was one which held a great interest for me, birds.

It involved preparing bird study skins, which meant I would be skinning birds. The museum had over a hundred birds in a freezer, all of which had been collected by an interested naturalist. The birds killed themselves against the windows of his, and his friends' cottages (see appendix for the list of birds). Surprisingly, the interest in the birds overcame any feelings of revulsion at the processes involved.

While this is teaching me much about the birds, it has raised my awareness of the huge numbers of birds which die by 'window kill'. My own house has a large window which I know kills about six birds a year. How many more hit the window when nobody is around to notice is anybody's guess - probably a much higher number. When there is nobody to pick up the body, it is certain that a predator will do so quickly.

Being a problem solver by nature, I tried to understand the reason why birds were flying into my windows. There appeared to be two main causes:

1. If two windows are opposite each other, birds see a clear path through.

2. Windows reflect a clear image of trees and shrubs into which the bird flies.

With the aim of preventing any more unnecessary deaths, the solution to the first cause should be simple. Keep curtains drawn on one side or block the through visibility in some way.

Flying into a reflection is perhaps the most difficult to prevent because although the solution is simple - block the window - this is not very attractive. My case is probably typical of many. The view from my large picture window gives me great pleasure, and I want it unimpeded by nets, ribbons, silver foil, old CDs or what-have-you.

My approach to finding a way of preventing window kill started with observation and analysis of why the birds were attracted to the reflection. I saw two probable causes. The big kitchen windows stick out at a shallow angle and from the marks on the window and the position of the bird bodies I surmise that birds flying along the backs of the houses are not prepared for my big reflecting windowpane. The second cause seemed to be birds flying off the feeder, which is 2.6 metres away, and into the window. I suspected that they were disoriented by the feeder rotating on its cord, and when flying off in a panic did not know which way they were facing.

The remedy in the second case was obvious, fix the feeder so that it does not rotate. For the first case I am following a possible remedy which is currently being studied by the Museum of Nature. They have attached small (2 cm) multi-faceted discs to a nylon fishing line and stretched it tightly from the top to the bottom of the window. I have made mine with the discs a little closer together on the string, about 35 cm, and placed these strings so that they are in the approach path of birds flying along the back of the houses. These discs are reflective, move in the slightest breeze and should break up the image of trees reflected in the window. The discs are available from Michael's craft stores as "20 mm paillette 14151 hologram".

At the museum's Aylmer site, one large area of glass is strung with the discs. All windows are monitored year round for evidence of strikes and the entire museum environment is rigorously monitored in summer. Recently there was a bird strike just above the ground and close to one of the strings of discs. I believe this strike is consistent with a hawk chasing a small bird, so there was no escape for the bird.

Last year started for me with a trip to the Wild Bird Care Centre with a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, which fortunately recovered, and ended with a White-throated Sparrow which died while lying on my hand. It is such incidents together with awareness of the magnitude of this problem that has created the incentive to do something about it.

Appendix:

List of birds killed around several cottages (Note: There is no indication whether these birds were collected in a year or over several years).

Ruffed Grouse	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2
Ring-billed Gull (1st winter)	1	Ovenbird	9
Mourning Dove	3	Common Yellowthroat	3
Boreal Owl	1	Field Sparrow	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6	Fox Sparrow	1
Belted Kingfisher	1	Song Sparrow	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Swamp Sparrow	1
Downy Woodpecker	3	White-throated Sparrow	2
Black-backed Woodpecker	1	White-crowned Sparrow	2
Flycatchers (Willow or Alder)	2	Dark-eyed Junco	3
Eastern Kingbird	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Red-eyed Vireo	1	Bobolink	1
Blue Jay	3	Red-winged Blackbird	2
Black-capped Chickadee	6	Eastern Meadowlark	1
White Breasted Nuthatch	1	Common Grackle	11
Brown Creeper	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Eastern Bluebird	1	Pine Grosbeak	2
Veery	3	Purple Finch	18
Swainsons Thrush	1	Common Redpoll	5
Hermit Thrush	1	Pine Siskin	1
American Robin	2	American Goldfinch	5
Starling	1	Evening Grosbeak	24
Cedar Waxwing	6	House Sparrow	5
Yellow Warbler	1		

Total...161 birds: 40 species.

Part II. How to Prevent Birds Flying into Windows

By Christine Hanrahan

Birds bring untold joy to millions of people. How sad then, that although we treasure birds so much, we frequently, if often unwittingly, contribute to their death.

Birds face many obstacles in life and while we cannot do anything about natural disasters such as inclement weather, we can take steps to help in other ways. One significant problem is that of bird collisions with windows. Both domestic residences and commercial buildings present serious hazards to birds. It is here on the domestic front that we can easily make some small changes that will help mitigate the problem. A related problem exists with cottages which are usually built in natural settings which usually have large windows to take advantage of the views. Birds regularly hit these windows as Anthony Denton's accompanying article shows only too well. You can take steps to avoid this tragedy by implementing some of the suggestions below, as well as considering placing wooden shutters to cover your windows when you are not at your cottage. At the very least, close your curtains or blinds. The mortality rate of bird kills in cottage country is undoubtedly higher than any of us have previously considered.

Windows kill birds in the day and night, throughout the year, and under most weather conditions. You may find only a few such window killed birds on your property and conclude that the problem, while sad, is not a major threat. But the situation occurs across the country in rural and urban settings alike, and usually goes unnoticed by most residents. Based on conservative estimates, scientists believe that the annual mortality resulting from window collisions in the United States is upwards of *100 million birds* per year (Bonney, 1992, Kelm, 1990). This is **not** a trivial issue!

Some simple changes can be made to help combat this yearly toll on our bird life. They needn't be as drastic or as dramatic as boarding up your windows! There are many ingenious things you can do that should help resolve this problem, although not all solutions will appeal to all people. What you choose to do (and I hope you will choose to do something if window kills are a problem at your house) depends largely on your commitment, your aesthetic taste, and in some cases, a 'don't care what the neighbours think' attitude. You may also have to experiment a bit. What works in one situation might not work in yours. Be flexible, try several solutions, be creative and come up with your own ideas (and then, if they work, let me know about them!).

Why Birds Fly into Windows

We need to understand why birds fly into windows in the first place. Windows reflect an unbroken image of trees, shrubs, and sky at a distance. Birds cannot distinguish between the reflection and the real thing, and so fly straight at the window expecting to continue through. Large windows are the worst culprit, but even those with small panes can be lethal. A house with two windows located opposite each other poses an even more hazardous situation since the effect is that of a clear flyway through the building. Closing curtains or hanging vertical blinds with the slats half closed on one window and implementing some of the suggestions on both windows will help.

What You Can Do

Feeders and bird baths can be a hazard if they are near large windows. Locate feeders

either far enough away from windows (at least three metres) so that when startled, birds have less chance of colliding with them, or close enough (within half a metre or on the window) so that if collision does occur, they have not gained enough momentum to sustain injury. Remember, birds that do not come to feeders, such as warblers, won't be affected by this suggestion so you still need to look at other solutions.

Glass panes must be covered in some way to break up the reflection. Screens help. From a bird's point of view dirty windows are better by far than clean, since they don't reflect an unsullied expanse of trees and sky. If you hate washing window, here's the perfect excuse to procrastinate. Dirty windows alone won't prevent all bird collisions, but they help. Fine netting across windows can also help to break up the reflective surface. *The Fatal Light Awareness Program (F.L.A.P)* suggests leaving a space between the glass and netting so that it will act as a trampoline if a bird hits. I'd suggest placing some reflective discs at intervals such as those described in Anthony's article, discs cut from shiny aluminum pie plates, or strips of ribbon. We don't want birds becoming entangled in the netting.

Single objects such as falcon silhouettes, owl decals and large eye patterns **DO NOT** reduce strike rates because they do nothing to break up the reflected image. If you still want to use these silhouettes, *F.L.A.P.* suggests making them from wood or sheet aluminum and placing by string or wire from an overhang. Alternatively, you can make silhouettes from used aluminum pie plates and hang by fishing line from suction cups on the outside of the window. You will still need several or many depending on window size. Remember - such objects only work where they break up the reflective surface.

Multiple objects are best. Glass must be uniformly covered with objects or patterns to break up the area into something birds will recognize as a solid surface. The general rule of thumb seems to be every 5-10 centimetres (*F.L.A.P.*, 2001) across the width of the window. Anthony Denton reports on the use of small multi-faceted discs attached to nylon fishing line stretched vertically over the window which he is trying out on his windows. The bigger the window the more 'objects' you will need.

Try hanging strips of tin foil, long ribbons, strips of cloth, or small bells outside the window, to keep the birds away from the glass. Anything that flutters in the breeze will help.

Get Creative. Use your imagination and have fun thinking of attractive, even funky, ways to break up that window reflection. I have used bells both small and large with long multi-coloured ribbons attached; the slightest breeze produces both movement and sound. Dangle these from the overhang.

Used CDs are excellent for breaking up reflection. String them on fishing line, ribbon, or raffia and hang two or three in a large picture window. You can glue two together, shiny side out, to create a silvery surface on both sides. These recycled CDs look very much like suncatchers or other attractive window ornaments. Some people even paint flowers

or birds on one side.

FeatherGuard developed by Stiles Thomas (2001) is another innovative solution that he claims works well. FeatherGuard is simply a fishing line strung with feathers every 7 inches and affixed vertically to the window by nails top and bottom, with only enough slack to allow the line to move in the breeze. This is similar to the method described in Anthony's article but using feathers instead of reflective discs. A combination of both might not only be very attractive but work well.

Other suggestions include using branches suspended in front of your window to break up the reflection but still allow you a good view out. Smearing a light film of oil or soap over the window - not something most people will like, but who knows. Decals in the shape of spider webs (available under the name Warning Web - you'll need a number if you have a big window); Mylar balloons, big and shiny flapping outside your window will likely scare off more than birds! I haven't tried this so don't know how well it works.

Finally. . . Talk to your family, friends and your neighbours. Spread the word about this issue Many people may be unaware of the problem or feel unable to do anything. To be informed is to be empowered.

More Information. One of the best sources of information about this issue is the Fatal Light Awareness Program (*F.L.A.P.*) in Toronto. They run an excellent website at *www.flap.org* and produce a biannual newsletter 'Touching Down'. Their primary focus is working to protect migratory birds from crashing into urban buildings, but they offer advice and information for everyone concerned with this problem. They have done a remarkable job in getting a number of Toronto's biggest office towers to turn off or turn down their lights during spring and fall migrations, the periods when most bird and building collisions occur in the urban setting. You can contact them through their website or at *F.L.A.P.* Royal Bank Plaza, Lower Concourse, P.O. Box 20, Toronto ON M5J 2J1. They are well worth supporting.

Acknowledgements
Thanks to Ken Allison for his superb sketches.

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Notice: The CNF Field Trips and Club Bus Trips

Canadian Nature Federation Field Trips:
The OFNC is assisting the CNF with its Annual General Meetiong in Ottawa this year. As a result the number of Club trips has been reduced in order to avoid clashing with the trips we are organizing for the CNF. The Council of OFNC urges you to take advantage of the CNF meeting and join in the program of presentations and field trips. Those of us who have attend past AGMs know this is a great experience and a wonderful opportunity to meet others who share our dedication to nature. There will be four different full day outings on Friday June 21 and six half day outings on Saturday following a series of presentations. For more information call 562-3447 or the CNF website *www.cnf.ca.*

Bus Trips:
When the Excursions and Lectures Committee organizes a bus trip it needs to observe certain principles. First, by Council's direction, we are not to make a loss, but by Club policy we are not to make a profit. This means we try to break even on each trip, and if not, we aim to balance the books over each season. A bus typically costs about $1000/day. If we charge $30 per person we need just over 33 people to register. We have some discrepancy; so if we had 31 or 32 people registered then the trip would go at a slight loss. Hopefully another trip makes a small profit and we balance out. Several trips lately have had around 25 people sign on. This leaves us with a choice of cancelling the trip or raising the price to $40.

We have checked with other bus lines (we typically use Carleton) and there are smaller busses available, but they also cost $1000/day. We could use vans but these come out to $54 per person. School busses, while cheaper, are no longer used as we had too many complaints of discomfort. Excursion & Lectures tries to provide outings in acceptable comfort to interesting places at reasonable cost. To do this we need to make a decision at least a week in advance of the trip date to proceed, to cancel the bus or, as we did with two recent trips, contact a few people and persuade them to join the bus (and balance the books!). We hope this clarifies the way we organize our bus trips.

Note: Council has asked the E&L committee to request that field trip leaders count the number of participants and call the number in to the Club line. Also if any of the participants are willing to write up the highlights of the trip they can send this note to the *T&L* editor.

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee.
For further information,
call the Club number (722-3050).

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

ALL OUTINGS: *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

REGISTERED BUS TRIPS: *Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (Payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 1A2, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait to the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. In order for the Club to offer a bus trip, we need just over 33 people to register. If fewer than 30 register, we have the option of cancelling the trip or increasing the cost. Such decisions must be done a week in advance so we encourage anyone who is interested in any bus trip to register as early as possible. We also wish to discourage postponing the actual payment of bus fees until the day of the event.*

EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE: *The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation, and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Club members must be prepared to show their membership cards to gain access for Club functions after regular museum hours.*

BIRD STATUS LINE: *Phone 860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings call Michael Tate at 825-1231. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.*

Tuesday	**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**
9 April	**SPRING MIGRATION IN EASTERN ONTARIO**
7:00 p.m.	**Speaker:** Bruce Di Labio
Social	**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.
7:30 p.m.	This presentation will focus on the bird species that migrate
Formal	through the Ottawa area. Come and learn from Bruce's
program	extensive experience that will help us in both the identification of migrants and in our atlas work.

Sunday
14 April
6.30 a.m.
to
6.30 p.m.

SPRING BIRDING AT PRESQU'ILE
Leaders: Roy John and Tony Beck
Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.
Cost: $30.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY; see the introduction to Coming Events for information)
The Club's traditional spring outing to Presqu'ile Provincial Park offers an ideal opportunity to study the diverse assortment of waterfowl that congregate in the surrounding waters during their northward migration. Transportation will be by a comfortable motor coach equipped with washroom.

Sunday
21 April
7:30 a.m.

A SPRINGTIME GENERAL INTEREST WALK
Leader: Geof Burbidge
Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.
The exact itinerary of this walk will be decided by the leader and will depend on the weather and local conditions. It will include anything of interest to a naturalist.

Friday
26 April
7:30 p.m.

OFNC SOIRÉE WINE AND CHEESE PARTY AND ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY
Meet: Unitarian Church Hall, 30 Cleary Avenue
See previous issue for further details. Please reserve by April 19. Send cheques to OFNC, Box 35069, Westgate P.O. Ottawa, K1Z 1A2.

May to September

FLETCHER WILDLIFE GARDEN

Meet: Fletcher Garden Interpretive Centre, east side of Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle.

The Interpretation Centre will be open Sunday afternoons to 4:00 p.m. and most Friday mornings. Come in and see our displays or browse our library of reference works. We also have free leaflets and some Club publications for sale.

If you are interested in helping us staff the centre, please call 730-0714 or e-mail *sgarland@achilles.net*.

May to September

FWG SUNDAY WORK GROUP

Meet: Fletcher Garden Interpretive Centre, east side of Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle.

We are starting a regular Sunday morning group to help with the control of invasives, tree planting, and other chores at the FWG. Please call (730-0714) or e-mail *sgarland@achilles.net.* if you'd like to join us. More information about times will be on our web site soon.

NATURE WALKS FOR BEGINNERS

The following walks of 3 or 4 hours duration are offered to novice birders.

DATE	TIME	PLACE	LEADERS
7 May	7.30 p.m.	Fletcher Wildlife Garden	Dave Moore & Mary McWhinney
16 May	7.30 p.m.	Fletcher Wildlife Garden	Dave Moore & Sandra Garland
21 May	7.30 p.m.	Fletcher Wildlife Garden	Marcel Gehbauer & Mary McWhinney

Sunday
12 May
8:00 a.m.

STONY SWAMP
Leader: Isabelle Nichols
Meet: The Stony Swamp parking lot at the Conservation Center just south of West Hunt Club Road on Moodie Drive.
Explore some of the 2000 acres of this woodland-wetland complex with upland, lowland and swampland features. You will have Isabelle's expert guidance with identifying the diverse flora. This should be a day for the whole family so bring children, parents and in-laws!

Tuesday
14 May
7:00 p.m.
Social

7:30 p.m.
Formal
Program

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
BROWN BEARS IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST
Speaker: Dick Russell
Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.
Dick plans to give an update on the work of his brother and sister-in-law on brown bears in Kamchatka in the Russian Far East. This illustrated talk will centre around their attempt to successfully reintroduce orphaned cubs to the wild in the Kronotsky Wildlife Reserve in southern Kamchatka. Charles Russell and Maureen Enns spent their first long field season in Russia in 1996 and they have returned each year since. The work is ongoing as they plan to return in May 2002.

Saturday
25 May

6TH ANNUAL TAVERNER CUP BIRDING EVENT
Further details may be obtained from Jeff Harrison at *dha@videotron.ca* or check out *www.web-net.com/taverner/.*

Tuesday
28 May

OTTAWA DUCK CLUB GUEST EVENING
Leader: Dale Crook
Meet: Shirleys Bay Sanctuary
If you are interested in seeing the grounds of the sanctuary or meeting fellow duck enthusiasts, please feel free to join the tour. A barbecue will follow. If interested contact Dale at 232-2902 or *odc@ncf.ca*. ODC website: *http://www.ncf.ca/odc*

Tuesday
28 May
6.00 a.m.

LATE SPRING MIGRANTS
Leader: Bruce Di Labio
Meet: Please meet at the parking lot near the corner of Western Parkway and Island Park Drive.
A visit to the Champlain Lookout in the Gatineau Park for warblers and other spring migrants. There is plenty of parking space. Bring a snack and a drink.

Saturday
1 June
9:00 a.m.
to
11:00 a.m.

FLETCHER WILDLIFE GARDEN ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE
Meet: Fletcher Garden Interpretive Centre, east side of Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle.
We will be selling native plants and other garden perennials. All proceeds go toward the upkeep of the garden. We depend on the generous donation of native plants from Club members and others to make this fund raiser a success. Please keep the FWG in mind as you start spring gardening.

We are be happy to pick up donated plants (just call Sandy at 730-0714 or *sgarland@achilles.net*) or you may bring them to the garden on Friday morning before the sale.

Sunday
2 June
6.00 a.m.

LATE MIGRANTS IN THE GATINEAU HILLS
Leader: Bernie Ladaouceur
Meet: The Supreme Court at Kent Street (no parking available).
Join Bernie and benefit from his wonderful ability to identify birds by song in the Lac LeBlanc area. This is a great spot for warblers and other forest birds. Bring a lunch if you plan to stay and be prepared for biting insects.

Sunday
9 June 9
7:30 a.m.

Rain date:
June 16
7:30 a.m.

ONTARIO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS FIELD WORKSHOP
Leader: Mark Gawn
Meet: Jack Pine Nature Trail parking lot, south of West Hunt Club Road on Moodie Drive.
Get ready for another season of atlassing with this half day workshop led by Mark Gawn. Participants will brush up on atlassing techniques while collecting data for the Bells Corner square. Bring insect dope and sensible footgear.

Tuesday **11 June** **7:00 p.m.** **Social** **7:30 p.m.** **Formal** **Program**	**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING** **MONARCH CONSERVATION: A PERSPECTIVE** **Speaker:** Jean Lauriault **Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets. Jean Lauriault from the Canadian Museum of Nature was in Mexico this winter, at the two largest Monarchs' over- wintering sites in the state of Michoacan, approximately 5 hours from Mexico City. He visited, with a group of Canadians and Mexicans, the 2 most popular sanctuaries that were hit by a severe storm in mid-January 2002. This storm was followed by unprecedented mortality of the butterflies at these sites. Jean has undertaken many trips in these areas since 1995. This experience has provided him with an opportunity to gain a perspective on Monarch conservation and sustainable tourism.

Thursday
20 June

FLETCHER WILDLIFE GARDEN OPEN HOUSE
In conjunction with the Canadian Nature Federation's annual meeting, the FWG will host an open house. Although this is primarily for people attending the CNF meeting, others are welcome.

Saturday
6 July
8:00 a.m.

SUMMER FLORA IN GILLIES GROVE
Leader: Albert Dugal
Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.
Gillies Grove, near Arnprior, is a 57-acre remnant of an old-growth forest that once covered the entire Ottawa Valley. White pines up to 170 years of age, and other old stands of hemlock, sugar maple and basswood trees can be found, as well as two species of horsetail and a rare sedge, *Carex prasina*. The Grove has only recently been proclaimed a conservation area, and as such is of considerable interest to botanists as well as other biologists. Bring a lunch, insect repellent, handlens and books on the flora of eastern Ontario for this long half-day excursion.

Sunday
14 July
9:00 a.m.

BUTTERFLIES OF SUMMER
Leader: Peter Hall
Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road
On this excursion we will be visiting a number of locations west of Ottawa to spot common butterflies in their natural habitats. With luck some rare species may be observed as well, including Sedge Skippers and Greater Fritillaries. Bring a lunch, suitable footwear and, if you have one a butterfly net, for this day-long excursion.

Sunday
21 July
1:00 p.m.

FERN IDENTIFICATION FIELD TRIP
Leader: Bill Arthurs
Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Boulevard at Smythe Road.
If you have not already been on one of these interesting tours in the Mer Bleue Conservation Area, or need a refresher course, now is your chance. On this afternoon general botanical walk you should expect to see about 25 of the 54 species of ferns and clubmosses known to the Ottawa region. Bring suitable footwear, a handlens and insect repellent.

DEADLINE: ***Material intended for the July-September 2002 issue must be in the editor's hands by May 15, 2002. Mail your manuscripts to:***

Karen McLachlan Hamilton
2980 Moodie Drive, Nepean, ON K2J 4S7
H: (613) 838-4943 e-mail: hamilton@storm.ca

ANY ARTICLES FOR TRAIL & LANDSCAPE?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Is there a colony of rare plants or a nesting site that needs protection? Write up your thoughts and send them to Trail & Landscape. We accept e-mail, IBM-compatible diskettes, or submissions in traditional form- typed, written, printed or painted!

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